GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:147
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF CHIKUNGUNYA
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Virology apprehends a possible outbreak of Chikungunya in urban areas as reported in the Indian Express dated October 13, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of facts reported therein;

(c) whether this virus has already entered Ahmedabad and Chennai;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to save cities from its menace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & b): Yes sir. It is apprehended that certain cities could come under the grip of this fever as the vector, the aedes aegypti mosquito, is already present there. Moreover, infected villagers traveling to cities for treatment will also be a means of entry for the virus. The change in the genotype of Chikungunya virus in the current outbreak is also worrisome.

(c) & d): Chikungunya virus cases have already been reported from Ahmedabad and Chennai cities as reported by the State Governments of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

During the current year up to 18th November, 2006, 38546 suspected Chikungunya fever cases were reported from the city of Ahmedabad. Out of the 191 samples tested for the evidence of Chikungunya fever, 104 samples were found positive for the disease.

The State of Tamil Nadu has reported 4847 suspected Chikungunya fever cases from the city of Chennai up to 18th November, 2006. Out of 22 blood samples sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, 6 samples were confirmed for the evidence of Chikungunya fever.

(e): The Government of India has taken the following action to prevent the spread of disease in the cities.

(i) Continuously monitoring the Chikungunya situation in the country.

(ii) Detail guidelines and advisories for prevention and control of Chikungunya fever have been sent to all States.

(iii) Intensive Behaviour Change Communication activities through print and electronic media, interpersonal communication, outdoor publicity as well as inter sectoral collaboration by involving civil society organizations, Panchyati Raj Institutions and Private Sector have been emphasized.

(iv) States have been supplied larvicides, adulticides such as Temephose and adulticides, Pyrethrum (2%) for indoor space spray for killing adult aedes mosquitoes.

(v) For surveillance and diagnosis of Chikungunya 79 sentinel surveillance Hospitals have been identified in consultation with the States.